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JOHN ERIC ELLIOTT

PRES.

OF

ROYAL MEDICAL

SOCIETY OF

AT

ANNUAL MEETING

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ADDRESS

OF

JOHN ERIC ERICHSEN, F.R.S.,

PRESIDENT

OF THE

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL
SOCIETY OF LONDON,

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 1ST, 1881.

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1881.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN,—During the two years that I have had the honour of presiding over this Society, my attention has naturally been directed not only to its present position and future prospects but also to its relations with the other medical societies of this Metropolis.

So far as its present scientific and professional position is concerned, nothing can be more satisfactory. The Society, though advanced in years, is as full as ever of life and vigour.

The number of its Fellows is large, and has shown of late years a tendency to increase. The meetings are well attended. The papers read are varied, important, and full of interest. The discussions are animated. The recent volumes of 'Transactions' admit of favorable comparison with any of their predecessors. The Library is rapidly growing and bids fair to become the most valuable professional Library in the kingdom; and, lastly, I may be allowed to add, as an evidence of the estimation in which the Society is held, that office in it is looked upon, and with justice, as amongst the highest distinctions in the profession.

Gratifying as is the present position of the Society in these respects, and free from anxiety as may be its immediate future, I cannot but think that the sphere of its action might be enlarged, and its utility proportionately increased to the advantage alike of it—the profession and the public.

"Finality" does not exist in medical institutions any more

than it does in medical science, and that policy is the wisest which seeks to adapt the work and scope of an institution to the varying requirements of the times.

It scarcely admits of doubt that it would be greatly to the advantage of the profession if an institution existed in it which, holding entirely aloof from all political, social, educational, and ethical questions, were to constitute a tribunal before which might be discussed those great scientific problems which underlie the practice of medicine and of surgery, and one to which the profession, the public, and, if used be, the Government, might look for a deliberate and authoritative judgment not only on them, but on some of those questions of practice which are constantly developing with the onward progress of science, and the solution of which is now often a matter of individual opinion, of conjecture, of assumption, of inference, of faith even, rather than of ascertained fact.

The mechanism for the establishment of such a tribunal already exists in this Society. If brought into active operation it would occupy a field entirely distinct from that which is now filled by the colleges, the functions of which are mainly educational—in some degree ethical—nor would it in any way clash with those associations, the aims of which are rather social and political than scientific.

This Society has indeed already, and in some degree but in an intermittent and halting manner, entered upon this course as is evident by the appointment at different times of committees to investigate various scientific or practical questions, such as the operation of anæsthetics, the treatment of asphyxia, and the relations of diphtheria to allied conditions. The work so done has been fruitful in good results, and I cannot but think that it would be conducive to the best interests of the profession if it came to be recognised as part of the general business of the Society.

The relations of this Society to other kindred institutions in the Metropolis is also a subject that appears to me to be deserving of the most serious attention on the part of its Fellows and of their members. We are all equally interested in it. There are few resident Fellows of this Society who do not

belong to one or other of those associations of more recent origin that hold their meetings in this room. Between these societies and ours a bond of union has already been established. Could not this be drawn closer? Could not some community of organisation and of action as well as of locality be established between them and us?

Might we not thus add to the strength not only of the parent but of the branch societies?—simplify, harmonise, and economise their working both in time and expense, and systematise in some way the arrangement and the distribution of papers to one or other of the societies which appears now to be often determined by mere chance or caprice.

These questions have suggested themselves afresh to me during my tenure of office here. I say *afresh* for, as many of the Fellows well know, this is not a new subject. It will be in the ready memory of many that so far back as the year 1869, under the⁹ Presidency of Sir George Burrows, it received the serious attention of the Fellows of this Society and of the members of several others. It was discussed in an exhaustive manner at several meetings here. An elaborate scheme for the amalgamation of this Society with the Pathological, Clinical, and Obstetrical societies was drawn up and the project came near to its fulfilment.

The title of the *Royal Society of Medicine* was proposed to be given to the new association, and the various sections represented by the other and more special societies were intended to be incorporated in it by an arrangement that appeared to have been not only equitable but mutually advantageous, and by which the individual and independent action of each section was secured.

For reasons then looked upon as valid, but which I venture to think have now lost much of their weight, the scheme fell through and became abortive, and thus were lost the results of much and most unselfish labour on the part of the officers of this and other societies, the fruition of which would have tended equally to the advantage of all the affiliated societies to which it would have given that strength and durability which co-operation and organisation can alone permanently secure.

The history of this episode in the affairs of this Society will be found in the 'Proceedings' for 1869-70, and to those of the Fellows who are not acquainted with it, I would recommend its attentive study and consideration.

The financial position of the Society is a matter that appears to me not only to deserve but to demand consideration on the part of the Fellows. For reasons quite independent of the admission of Fellows, the income of the Society has decreased whilst its expenditure has grown. The income of the Society, though sufficient for the present ordinary wants, is not sufficiently elastic to bear any unusual strain to which it might be subjected, even though of but moderate severity, and it would most certainly tend greatly to the present prosperity and future security of the Society if it could be increased.

I may at once say that we cannot reduce our expenditure, we must therefore see if there are any means by which our income can be increased.

As the most feasible and practical scheme I would suggest the desirability of reconsidering the amount of payments made to the Society by the non-resident Fellows.

A "non-resident" Fellow—one who lives beyond the seven mile radius from the Post Office—consequently, if residing in some parts of the suburbs not more than five miles from the Society's premises, pays once and for all a fee of six guineas to the Society. For this he enjoys, for life, all the privileges of a resident Fellow, 'with the exception of not being allowed to take books out of the Library, and of receiving the annual volume of the 'Transactions,' for which, however, he can compound on very reasonable terms. He can use the Library and Reading Room, can attend all meetings, take part in the discussions, introduce visitors, and he receives the 'Proceedings' as published.

I cannot but think that in consideration of these great advantages, independently of the honour of being a Fellow of this the greatest of all our societies, the non-resident Fellow scarcely makes an adequate return or one proportionate to that made by the Resident Fellow, and that he might justly be charged a small annual subscription, say of one guinea, in addition to his entrance fee. For this he might receive the annual volume of

the 'Transactions,' and yet a considerable balance be left in favour of the Society.

Such an arrangement could not be retrospective, but in the course of time it would yield a considerable additional annual income. We have now about 300 non-resident Fellows. If each of these had been admitted under such an arrangement as now suggested, receiving the 'Transactions' as well as the 'Proceedings' annually, an addition of about £180 a year would have been made to the income of the Society, which would amply suffice for all its wants.

In addition to the pecuniary gain thus accruing to the Society there would be this advantage, that it would not only bring the non-resident Fellows into more direct and continuous relation to the Society, but also that the circulation of the 'Transactions' would be nearly doubled, and thus the papers published in them receive a much wider publicity.

Such a change would require the alteration of Section 5 of Chapter 5 of the Bye-laws.

During the past year we have had to deplore the loss of ten Ordinary and of one Honorary Fellow of the Society, and these numbers are, I am pleased to say, below the average.

The hand of death has fallen with stern impartiality on all ages and on all classes amongst our Fellows. It has removed those who, full of years and of honour, have been Fellows of this Society since Astley Cooper was its President. It has snatched away others in the early prime of a life full of promise by a premature, and in some cases a sudden fate. We have sustained the loss of men of the highest distinction in the world of science, as well as of those content to occupy a less prominent—though, perhaps, not less useful position in the ranks of the profession.

The first name in our obituary of the year is that of *Dr. Daniel Whitaker Cohen*, who died on February 28th, 1880, at the age of 67.

Dr. Cohen studied at St. Thomas's Hospital, became a Member of the College of Physicians in 1842, and an M.D. of Cambridge in 1847. He was appointed Assistant-Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, and established himself in practice in Cleveland Row.

For what reason I know not he resigned his appointment and quitted London in 1855, remained abroad till 1865, when, after a brief stay in London, he finally returned to Bideford where he died.

The death of *Mr. Thomas Bell* has severed one of the last connecting links which united the present with a long past generation of surgeons, and has deprived this Society of one of its three senior Fellows.

The son of a medical man who practised at Poole during the later half of the eighteenth century, Thomas Bell was born in that town in the year 1792, and following the custom prevalent in those days, but now perhaps unfortunately obsolete, commenced his professional studies under his father's guidance, and did not enter upon his hospital attendance until he had attained an age sufficiently mature to appreciate and to profit by the instruction of such men as Cline and Astley Cooper, then in the zenith of their fame.

In the ever memorable year of "thy crowning victory," Waterloo, Bell became a Member of the College of Surgeons, and two years subsequently, in 1817, was appointed Lecturer on the Diseases of the Teeth, &c., and Dental Surgeon to Guy's Hospital.

This appointment opened up a new era in Dental Surgery. So far as I know, Bell was the first legally qualified and thoroughly educated surgeon who, devoting himself specially to dentistry, became connected, in the capacity of teacher of his art and Dental Surgeon with a large Metropolitan Hospital and School of Medicine.

But Bell did more than lead the way to the recognition of dentistry as being an integral part of surgery and worthy the attention of the educated surgeon. He was one of the first who in this country followed in the steps of John Hunter by making the teeth the subject of scientific study.

For truly, Thomas Bell was not a mere dentist, his mind was too active and energetic, it was too deeply imbued by a scientific spirit to allow itself to be confined within the narrow circle of so restricted a specialty as that of dentistry.

He devoted himself with zeal and conspicuous ability to the

study of comparative anatomy and zoology. He lectured on these branches of natural science at Guy's Hospital, and in 1836 was appointed Professor in them at King's College.

He wrote much and well on his favourite subjects of study. A 'Treatise on the Anatomy of the Teeth' is perhaps his chief work, and he contributed numerous papers to the 'Transactions' of the Royal, the Linnean, and the Zoological Societies.

By these contributions to comparative anatomy and natural history, Bell reaped the highest rewards that await a man of science in this country.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and acted for many years as one of the secretaries of that distinguished body. He was also an Honorary Fellow of the College of Surgeons, and became President of the Linnean Society in 1848. Bell was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1819, served on the Council in 1832, and was Vice-President in 1854.

His last literary work consisted in the publication of an enlarged edition of that charming book, Gilbert White's 'Natural History of Selborne.' Not only did Bell become the editor of the well-known work of this distinguished naturalist, but he also became the possessor of his house, "The Wakes," at Selborne, where it had been originally written, and which he had purchased some years before his death on his retirement from public life. Here he quietly passed away on the 13th March, 1880, in his eighty-eighth year. He had been a Fellow of this Society for sixty-one years at the time of his death, and was admitted during the Presidency of Sir Astley Cooper.

By the death of *Dr. John Deakin Heaton*, Leeds has sustained the loss not only of a most distinguished physician, but of one of her most prominent and enlightened citizens, ever active in all work of utility and of benevolence.

Born at Leeds in 1818, Dr. Heaton received his general education in the grammar school of that town. His medical studies he commenced at its infirmary, and subsequently pursued them with distinguished success at University College. He graduated in honours at the University of London in 1843, and soon afterwards settled as a physician in his native town. Early in life he became connected with the Leeds Medical School, where

he lectured successively on botany, materia medica, and the practice of medicine.

In 1850 he was appointed physician to the Leeds General Infirmary. This important office he retained up to the time of his death, having attained the rank of senior physician on the retirement of Dr. Chadwick in 1870.

It is not too much to say that Dr. Heaton was no unworthy representative of a school which had been rendered illustrious by the teachings of the Heys, the Smiths, and the Teales, and which has long held a foremost place in schools of medicine of Great Britain.

It was not, however, only as that of a physician of eminence that Dr. Heaton's name stood conspicuous in his native town, it was intimately associated with all those institutions, whether of a religious, benevolent, or scientific character, that tended to the improvement of the moral, physical, or intellectual condition of its inhabitants.

In all that related to the educational and scientific progress of Leeds, and of the great manufacturing district of which it is the centre, Dr. Heaton took an especially active part. He was for many years chairman of the *Yorkshire Board of Education*, and was a warm supporter of the Leeds *Philosophical Society*, of which he was president for four years.

But, perhaps, Dr. Heaton's greatest work in connection with education was in the establishment of the *Yorkshire College of Science*, an institution founded for the purpose of giving advanced instruction in applied science—an object necessarily of the very first importance in a manufacturing town.

In recognition of his eminent services in connection with this College, Dr. Heaton received the honour of the membership of the Clothworkers' Company and of the Freedom of the City of London.

Dr. Heaton died in his sixty-third year, after a short illness, in March, 1880.

Few men have been more widely known or more universally respected in the scientific world during the last third of a century than *Dr. William Sharpey*.

The birthplace of Harvey was the home of Sharpey's ancestors.

His father, a native of and shipowner at Folkestone, migrated towards the end of the last century to Arbroath, where Sharpey was born in 1802. Though of English descent, Dr. Sharpey was Scottish not only by birth, but markedly so in character and sympathy.

A posthumous child, he owed his early education, as well as his entry into the medical profession, to the guidance and advice of his stepfather, Dr. Arrott, for whom he always retained a most kindly and grateful remembrance.

The early years of Sharpey's professional life contain few, if any, incidents of interest, the relation of which need detain us. It suffices to say that, in 1817, he commenced his medical studies in the University of Edinburgh, and after passing through the usual course graduated in 1823. He subsequently assisted his stepfather, Dr. Arrott, in his practice at Arbroath. But the routine duties of a country practitioner were but little congenial to a mind having so strong a scientific bias as Sharpey's. He soon threw up practice, never to resume it, and left Scotland on a prolonged tour of scientific education on the Continent, there to prosecute his studies in anatomy and physiology, and to prepare himself for his life's work as a man of science.

With this view he visited and studied at the best schools of anatomy and physiology to be found in Europe, and under Rudolphi, at Berlin, Tiedemann, at Heidelberg, and Panizza, at Pavia, he made himself not only a thorough master of topographical anatomy, but acquired an extended knowledge of the most advanced physiology of the day.

Returning to Scotland Sharpey entered, in 1831, upon that career as a teacher in which he was destined to become pre-eminent. He had lectured on anatomy with great success for five years at the Extra-Academical School at Edinburgh, when that event occurred which caused him to sever his professional ties in the North and permanently to establish himself in London. For in 1836, on the sudden retirement of Dr. Jones Quain from all connection with University College, the anatomical department of that school was reconstructed and a Chair of General Anatomy and Physiology created, to which Dr. Sharpey was appointed. This post he held for nearly forty years, resigning it only in

1874 under the pressure of advancing years and increasing infirmities.

It is not too much to say that this appointment inaugurated a new era in the history of the progress of physiology in this country. At the present day it is not easy to estimate its full importance, unless we picture to ourselves what physiology was and how it was taught in the medical schools of the Metropolis nearly half a century ago.

At the time of Sharpey's advent in London no complete course of physiology was given in any of the medical schools. In fact, physiology was not taught separately or apart from ordinary descriptive anatomy as a great and independent branch of biological science. The same lecturer usually taught "anatomy and physiology" in the same course of lectures, the latter part of which was considered to suffice for the instruction of the student in physiology, and the physiology so taught consisted of little more than a brief description of the functions of organs and the uses of parts. Sharpey was the first who gave a complete course of lectures on general anatomy, histology, and physiology, such as is now universally done in all the greater medical schools. The great advance that he instituted consisted not only in the completeness of the course, in the full and exhaustive manner with which he treated his subject, in the vast amount of varied learning with which his lectures abounded, but in a main degree in his making comparative anatomy and physiology the basis from which he proceeded to a description of the biological phenomena presented by man.

Sharpey's lectures attracted large crowds of eager and attentive pupils, and by the interest they excited undoubtedly gave a powerful stimulus to the study of physiology in this country. Indeed, as a teacher of physiology Sharpey was unrivalled; never eloquent, scarcely perhaps fluent, often embarrassed for words, the matter of his lectures was so valuable, the arrangement so orderly, the exposition so lucid, the illustrations so varied and novel, and the manner of the lecturer so earnest, that his teaching made a deep and lasting impression on all who had the good fortune to listen to it.

Sharpey did not write much. His best known publications

are an article on the "Cilia" in Todd's 'Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology,' and the chapters on General Anatomy that preface the later editions of Jones Quain's work on Anatomy. No independent work ever issued from Sharpey's pen. It has always been to me a source of much regret that his lectures on physiology have not been published, either by himself or under his guidance, by one of his many pupils well qualified for the task. Indeed, it may truly be said that Sharpey has not done justice to himself by his published works. They will certainly scarcely convey to a future generation a just estimate of the high consideration in which their author was held by his contemporaries as a physiologist and a man of science.

Sharpey's knowledge of the literature of his own subject, and of the work done by other physiologists, was as extended as it was accurate—it was encyclopædic. It embraced equally the speculations of the past and the most advanced doctrines of the present. He was as conversant with the works of Vesalius, of Harvey, and of Haller, as with those of the latest experimentalists in France and Germany.

Prodigious as were his stores of knowledge, not only in physiology but in most departments of medical science, his memory was equally ready as it was tenacious, and never failed him with an apt quotation or a striking illustration when required. His judgment was singularly calm and clear, and his mind possessed judicial qualities of the highest order.

His extensive knowledge, and his peculiar mental tone, constituted him an admirable mentor for the young investigator. He was able to point out lines of inquiry that promised to be productive of good results, or to warn him of the dangers of crude and imperfect observation.

Of Sharpey it may with truth be said that he was both a full and an exact man; one whose knowledge was only equalled by his wisdom, one in whom if knowledge came, wisdom certainly did not linger.

His sense of humour was keen and his criticism of the works of others always acute, was often marked by a dash of satire which gave singular pungency to his remarks.

Sharpey devoted himself with untiring zeal to the interests of

three great institutions in the metropolis, viz. to those of University College, the University of London, and the Royal Society.

To him *University College* is mainly indebted for the high reputation it has long held as a school of biological science, and in its laboratories and museums he worked with unflagging energy, until increasing infirmities incapacitated him for all active duties.

To the interests of the *University of London* he devoted himself for many years, first as an examiner and subsequently as a member of the senate. For a liberal both by instinct and by reason, Sharpey watched with constant and untiring assiduity over the rising fortune of that great institution.

At the *Royal Society* his influence was strongly felt during the lengthened period that he acted as one of the secretaries of that distinguished body.

Much broken by the infirmities of age, Sharpey died after a short illness on the 11th April, 1880, in his seventy-ninth year. His death will long be felt in the world of science in this country. His tall and massive frame, his keen, but open and good-humoured countenance, his cheerful smile and kindly greeting much missed at its social gatherings.

Dr. William O'Connor had been a Fellow of this Society since 1843, and although he never contributed to its 'Transactions' or held office in it, took at one time an active part in its proceedings, and was a frequent and well known attendant at its meetings.

Dr. O'Connor, who was an M.D. of St. Andrews, acted for twenty-five years as physician to the Royal Free Hospital. He communicated several papers to the journals, and to the Pathological Society, chiefly on abdominal diseases. He died somewhat suddenly on the 3rd September, 1880.

The three Fellows whose obituaries we have now to record were all lost to us and to the profession in the prime of life; they were all men of brilliant promise and of some achievement.

Mr. Edward Amphlett, the son of a highly respected member of our profession practising at Birmingham, was born in 1848.

Originally destined for the sea he served for several years as a midshipman in the Royal Navy, thus visiting various and remote regions.

But unfortunately, becoming the victim of chronic asthma, he was compelled to relinquish a profession to which he was devoted, and in which he ever continued to take a warm interest.

On leaving the navy he determined to enter the medical profession. With this view he proceeded to Cambridge where he took his B.A. degree, distinguishing himself both in mathematics and in classics. He studied medicine at Guy's Hospital, and became a F.R.C.S. in 1877.

Mr. Amphlett now commenced to practise as a surgeon in London. He was appointed assistant-surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital, and clinical assistant to the Moorfields Ophthalmic Hospital. He worked with great assiduity in these posts, and gave early promise of a successful, possibly of a brilliant career. But the same disease that had led to his compulsory retirement from the navy marred his progress as a surgeon. He fled for relief to the use of potent drugs and died on September 9th from an overdose of morphia and chloral.

Of high integrity and most honorable character, a man of much information and of varied acquirements, excelling in all athletic sports, and proficient in games of skill, Mr. Amphlett was deservedly a favourite with all who knew him.

A young physician of much promise has passed away in *Dr. James Pearson Irvine*.

The son of a medical man, Dr. Irvine was born at Colgate in 1842. After taking his B.A. degree at the University of London he commenced his medical studies at the Liverpool School of Medicine; thence he proceeded to University College where he passed through a brilliant career as a student, graduating in honours at the University of London, and obtaining his M.D. degree in 1871.

Well known in Liverpool, and highly esteemed by all who knew him, Dr. Irvine commenced the practice of his profession in that town. But in 1874 he moved to London, and was soon appointed Assistant-Physician to, and Lecturer on Forensic Medicine at, the Charing Cross Hospital.

He threw himself with zeal into the kind of professional work most affected by young physicians at the present day. He was a constant attendant and frequent exhibitor at the meetings of the Pathological Society. The pathology of the heart and great blood-vessels, more especially in relation to chlorosis, occupied much of his attention. On this subject he wrote an elaborate and able paper, which was read before this Society, and an abstract of which will be found in its 'Proceedings.'

Dr. Irvine, however, has not written much. His time had been spent in preparation rather than in accomplishment. But what he did write was characterised by good judgment and a sound and practical insight into disease. A series of papers on "Relapse of Typhoid Fever," which since his death have appeared in a separate form, was his chief work.

Genial and ever courteous in manner, modest and unassuming in character, a diligent observer and laborious student, there can be little doubt that had his life been spared Dr. Irvine had before him a successful and honorable career. But a life that promised so fairly was prematurely cut short, and he died after a brief illness on October 15th, 1880, in his thirty-eighth year.

Another of the younger Fellows of this Society, cut off by chronic disease in the prime of a life which, in the brightness of its dawn, gave promise of a brilliant future, was *Dr. Edward Isaac Sparks*.

Born at Crewkerne in 1843, he received his early education in the grammar school of that town. Thence he went to Oxford, where his career was one of marked distinction. In 1866 he came out with a first class in natural science and honours in classics. In 1868 he was appointed Radcliffe Travelling Fellow. In this capacity he spent three years on the Continent. On his return to England he entered as a student of Medicine at University College, London, and having obtained his M.B. degree in 1870, and becoming a Member of the Royal College of Physicians two years later, settled in the Metropolis with the view to practise.

Dr. Sparks had now a future before him such as is opened up to few men in our profession at the outset of life. Distinguished as a university graduate, possessing that acquaintance with men

and things which extended foreign travel can alone give; a good classic, skilled in modern languages, with an excellent knowledge of medical science as taught in the most advanced schools on the Continent, Dr. Sparks entered on professional practice with a reputation already made, needing but time and opportunity to carry him into the foremost rank of the physicians of his day.

But the bright morning of his life was soon overshadowed by the cloud of failing health. He became the victim of chronic phthisis, and after a residence of but three years in London was compelled to relinquish the idea of a metropolitan career, and to retire to the South of France in the vain hope of renovating his shattered constitution, eventually establishing himself at Mentone as a physician.

Fully conscious of the nature of his disease, and of its inevitably fatal result, Dr. Sparks worked bravely on. He wrote two papers for this Society, both of which appeared in our 'Transactions,' one in 1874, "On a Disease produced by the *Acarus Folliculorum*," and another, in conjunction with Dr. Mitchell Bruce, in 1879, "On the Effect of Diet, Exercise, and Rest on Chronic Nephritis." This paper is doubly interesting; not only on account of its scientific merits, but also, and perhaps mainly, because the observations contained in it were auto-clinical, possessing the melancholy interest of having been made by the author on his own person when fatally stricken by disease. In addition to these papers Dr. Sparks has published a work on the Riviera, which is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of that favoured and favourite region. He also translated 'Binz's Manual of Therapeutics.'

Amiable and cheerful in disposition, highly cultivated, with a lively appreciation of all that was beautiful in art and interesting in nature, Dr. Sparks was an agreeable companion and a warm-hearted friend. Had his physical vigour but equalled his mental powers he would undoubtedly have taken a foremost place amongst the physicians of a future day, but disease gradually gained ground on him and he died on October 11th, 1880, beloved by all who knew him, and regretted most by those who knew him best.

The Indian medical service has been the fostering mother of

many men who have risen to deserved distinction and to high honour in our profession, and few have more fairly merited the eminence they have attained through it than *Dr. Edward Goodeve*.

Born in 1816 at Alverstone, in Hampshire, he received his medical education at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where his abilities and industry attracting the attention of Sir William Lawrence, he obtained, through the influence of that distinguished surgeon, an appointment in the East India Company's Service. He went out to Bengal in 1841 as an assistant-surgeon. Here he speedily attracted the notice of those high in office, and he was selected to accompany Dr. Wilson, the Bishop of Calcutta, in several prolonged journeys through India. On his return from this service he was appointed civil surgeon at Cawnpore, but soon resigned this post in order to join the British forces then engaged in the Sikh War. He served through both the Sutlej campaigns, and did valuable service in his capacity of regimental surgeon in the battles of Chillianwallah and Guzerat. In recognition of which he received a medal and two clasps.

In 1850 he was appointed Professor of Materia Medica in the Calcutta Medical School. Thence he was soon advanced to the Professorship of Medicine and became Physician to the Calcutta Hospital. It was in this great field of observation, of practice, and of instruction, that he acquired a distinguished reputation not only throughout India but in this country as a physician and a teacher of the highest order.

Retiring from the service in 1864 he returned to England, and in 1865 was sent by the Government to Constantinople in order to represent this country at the International Cholera Commission held at that city.

Dr. Goodeve devoted much attention to those diseases which are specially rife in India, such as cholera, dysentery, diarrhoea, and enteric fever. To 'Reynolds' System of Medicine' he contributed valuable articles on cholera and diarrhoea.

Returning to England as he did in the full maturity of professional life, Dr. Goodeve commenced practice as a physician in London; but failing health compelled him to retire from all active work, and he died at his residence, near Clifton, on the 27th October, in the sixty-fifth year of his age.

Of *Dr. George Moore's* early life and professional career I can learn but little. He was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1836, and practised for many years at Hastings.

Dr. Moore was a prolific writer. His works were, however, scarcely medical. Their character was chiefly religious or psychological. Their titles, indeed, express their scope; 'The Power of the Soul over the Body,' 'The Use of the Body in Relation to the Mind,' 'Man and his Motives,' 'The First Man and his Place in Creation,' are sufficiently expressive of the nature of these works.

The only publication by Dr. Moore which could be considered as really medical, is an essay on the "Pathology and Causes of Puerperal Fever," published in 1836

Dr. Moore, occupying himself but little with practice, had for many years before his death led a life of literary leisure at Hastings, where he died on October 30th, 1880, aged seventy-seven.

Those honoured names, "*Benjamin Collins Brodie*," which have been borne on the rolls of this Society for sixty-seven years, have finally been erased by the hand of death. For Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie, the second of that name and title, one of our Honorary Fellows, the distinguished son of an illustrious father, died at Torquay on the 24th November, 1880, in his sixty-fourth year.

Born in 1817, he graduated at Oxford in 1838, taking honours in Mathematics. Inheriting his father's philosophic mind, he devoted himself to science, and selecting chemistry as the subject of his study, he proceeded to Giessen, where, in the laboratory of the celebrated Justus von Liebig, then at the height of his fame, he worked under the guidance of that great master. Here Brodie first distinguished himself by an analysis of different varieties of wax produced by feeding bees on different kinds of sugar.

These early investigations led him to a complete chemical examination of wax, the result of which was a most able memoir on this subject, presented to the Royal Society in 1848, and published in the 'Philosophical Transactions.'

In 1853 Sir Benjamin C. Brodie was elected an Honorary Fellow of this Society.

In 1855 Brodie was appointed Professor of Chemistry in the University of Oxford, an office which he held until 1872, when failing health compelled him to resign it. Here he devoted himself to investigations of the highest order. He more especially studied the behaviour of the peroxides, a study which led up to the discovery of those remarkable compounds, the *peroxides of organic acids*, thus opening out an entirely new field of chemical research. Another of Brodie's more important investigations was a lengthened inquiry into the action of *electricity on the various gases*. This gave rise to a memoir, also published in the 'Philosophical Transactions,' described by one well competent to judge of its merits as "a monument of patient research and ingenious labour."

Brodie's latest work was one entitled 'The Calculus of Chemical Operations.' In this essay chemical research and mathematical reasoning were equally brought to bear on the solution of one of the most difficult problems in physical science. In this remarkable memoir, read before the Royal Society in 1876, Brodie endeavoured to show by direct experimentation, supported by mathematical proof, that the particles of elementary bodies are not simple but compound, and to it we owe in a great measure our ideas of the probable molecular constitution of elementary and compound matter.

The late Sir Benjamin C. Brodie communicated a paper to our Society in 1876, containing an account of the case of his own son, which affords an interesting and instructive illustration of the bearing that pure science may have on surgical practice. The boy, having broken a piece of needle in his leg, the presence of the foreign body was detected and its situation determined by submitting the needle in the leg to the action of a powerful electromagnet—that of the Royal Institution—and then testing its position by suspending over the limb an indicating needle—a sewing needle suspended from the middle by a line of silk—which became violently agitated when it approached the spot. The broken needle was afterwards extracted by Mr. Charles Hawkins, who has kindly referred me to this interesting case, which is published in our 'Proceedings.'

In character Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie was, in the words of

the President of the Royal Society, "No unworthy representative of the firmness of character and independence of thought which have always been connected with his father's name."

I may add that the venerated name of Brodie, and the title conferred on the illustrious surgeon of that name, are perpetuated in the person of the third baronet, the only son of the subject of this notice.

And now, Gentlemen, I have done. Nothing more remains for me but to retire from this Chair, and to resign into your hands the trust with which you honoured me two years ago. That honour I regard as one of the highest that our profession can bestow—as such I hope it may always be cherished. Few honours come to us from without; we may, therefore, be allowed to prize more highly those that are conferred by the members of our own profession.

Such honours, and so conferred, are no small recompense in after life to those who in the earlier period of their career have followed the steep and rugged road that alone leads to true professional eminence, and have not been tempted to turn aside into those smooth and smiling bye-paths that are short cuts to fortune though they may not lead to fame.

I know of no greater distinction that can be conferred on a surgeon in this country than for him to have his name inscribed on the same roll that contains those of the sixteen distinguished surgeons—some the most illustrious that their age has produced—who have, since the foundation of this Society, preceded me in the office of Surgical President. That distinction I owe to you; for it I must cordially thank you, for I am deeply grateful.



